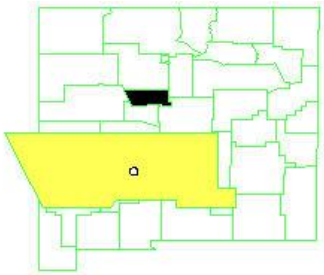
SOUTH VALLEY
(BERNALILLO COUNTY) ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



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Site ID: 0600881

EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 01

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Background

The South Valley Site is located in an industrial area in the southern portion of Albuquerque, New Mexico, one-half mile west of the Albuquerque International Airport and one-half mile east of the Rio Grande, close to the intersection of South Broadway and Woodward Road. Historical and current land use surrounding the Site is primarily industrial, with some residential use to the north of the site.

One portion of the South Valley site is known as the Univar Site. The Univar Site has been used for various industrial and commercial purposes for approximately 50 years. In 1965, Edmunds Chemical Company (Edmunds) purchased the land. Edmunds and its successor, SEC Corporation (SEC), distributed various industrial chemicals in addition to selling dry ice, chlorine, and ammonia gas. In 1971, SEC sold the industrial chemical portion of its business to Univar and SEC continued in the business of selling dry ice, chlorine, and ammonia gas. Univar began leasing the eastern portion of the property for its activities, while SEC continued to occupy the rest of the site. In 1977, AmeriGas acquired SEC and continued the dry ice, chlorine, and ammonia gas operation, while Univar remained as a tenant. AmeriGas sold the property in 1982 to Dixie Chemical, and re-acquired the property later that same year. Since 1985, only Univar has been active at the site. In June 1988, Univar purchased the property from AmeriGas and has since owned and operated the site.

The other portion of the site is known as the former Air Force Plant 83 Site. The Plant 83 facility consisted of two facilities: North Plant 83 Area located north of Woodward Road, which was demolished in October 1997, and South Plant 83 Area located south of Woodward Road, which is still in use today. Both facilities have been used for manufacturing purposes since the 1950s, first by Eidel Manufacturing, followed by the Atomic Energy Commission through its contractor American Car Foundry, followed by U.S. Air Force through its contractor General Electric, and finally by General Electric Aviation (GEA) as facility owner since 1984.

In 1978, the City of Albuquerque analyzed samples from the San Jose and Miles municipal well fields. Low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in wells SJ-3 and SJ-6. These wells were temporarily taken out of service. Both SJ-3 and SJ-6 wells were plugged and abandoned in 1994. The remedial action at Operable Unit (OU) 1 was then completed through the installation of a well that replaced the amount of water taken out of service through the well abandonment.

In 1981, the EPA and NMED designated a 1-square mile area around SJ-6 as a Superfund site which was added to the NPL. This area became OU2. Based on investigations, the EPA concluded that the trace concentrations of solvents in the vicinity of SJ-6 "do not pose a threat to public health or the environment" provided that the SJ-6 well plugging and abandonment is implemented.

Two RODs were issued for Univar: one for the ground water (OU3) and one for the vadose zone (OU4). The ROD for OU4 required no further action for the Edmunds Street source control (vadose zone). However, a vadose zone treatment was initiated later on by Univar to increase the efficiency of the extraction system for ground water, OU3. The RA selected for OU3 consisted of the containment and collection of the contaminated ground water through the use of an extraction well system, treatment of the recovered ground water through packed tower aeration, and return of the treated water to the aquifer through infiltration galleries. The ROD also stated that the selected remedy would include monitoring of ground water, treated water, and ambient air to ensure the effectiveness of the remedy.

At GEA, the ROD required the installation of additional monitoring wells; the treatment of the extracted air via vapor phase activated carbon; the extraction and treatment of ground water via liquid-phase activated carbon; and the extraction and treatment of the ground water to a depth of about 160 ft bgs via air stripping and liquid-phase activated carbon. The ROD addressed two distinct ground water zones – the shallow zone (OU5) and the deep zone (OU6).

Current Status

EPA initiated a Five Year Review process in September 2009 and completed its findings on August 26, 2010.

The 2009 Annual Reports for the remedial actions implemented by the Potential Responsible Parties (PRPs) were received and reviewed. The on-going remedial actions continue to contain, capture and reduce the concentration of contaminants within the ground water plume. As such, on-going remedial actions continue to be protective of human health and the environment.

GEA ceased operations in September 2010 and completed demolition of the buildings at the site in May 2011. GEA has investigated various sumps and subgrade structures located in the South Plant 83 area. As a result of this investigation, GEA excavated and disposed of chromium contaminated soils located near the old East/West Tank Line area of the site. These activities were in January 2012.

Benefits

- The water supply for 70,000 customers of the San Jose City water supply system is being protected.
- Through the removal of contaminated soil and debris and the installation of a new water supply well, the EPA has reduced possible hazardous exposures at the South Valley site while ground water extraction and treatments are continuing.
- Both shallow and deep aquifers are being remediated.
- It should be noted that the groundwater remedial systems at the South Valley Superfund Site have

been very effective in recovering and treating over 5.1 billion gallons of water since the remedial systems went on-line. A significant portion of the entire amount of this large volume of water has been returned to the aquifer from which it was extracted, allowing the groundwater to be returned back to its beneficial use.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

Site HRS Score: 42.24

Proposal Date: July 23, 1982

Final Listing Date: September 8, 1983

Location: About one square mile in Southern Albuquerque.

Population: Approximately 70,000 people in Albuquerque are served by the San Jose water supply system.

A residential district of 590 people lies adjacent to the north of the General Electric facility.

Setting: Nearest residence is within the site boundaries.

Municipal wells San Jose (SJ)-3 and SJ-6 were decommissioned in 1981 due to contamination with low levels of organic solvents. These wells were plugged and abandoned in September 1994. A new city water supply well (Burton #4) was completed in April 1987.

Wastes and Volume

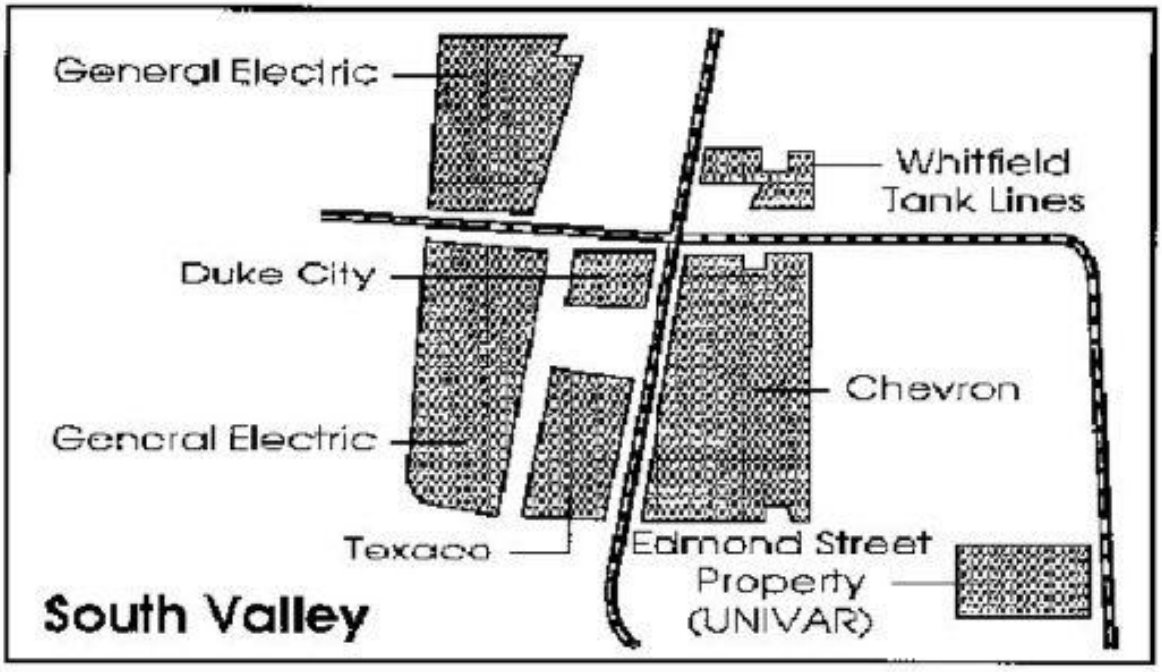
Principal Pollutants:

- Halocarbons (1,1-dichloroethene, trichloroethylene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, tetrachloroethylene) and Aromatics (benzene, ethlybenzene, toluene xylene) are found in shallow ground water.
- Low-level Halocarbons and high-level Aromatics are present in the upper 60-feet of the intermediate ground water.
- Halocarbons are found in the upper part of the deep ground water zone.

Volume:

- Contaminated ground water, volume unknown.

Site Map



Human Health and Ecological Considerations

- Wells in the San Jose well field area were contaminated with VOC compounds, forcing the closing of over twenty private wells and two Albuquerque municipal wells.
- Results of the Remedial Investigation and Endangerment Assessment show that in the off-site areas there was not a significant threat to public health or the environment.
- Contamination in the soil and shallow ground water was found in the residential area north of the GE Plant. Soil contamination, found 9-feet below the surface, presents no threat to human health and was dismissed as a potential remedial target.
- The shallow ground water is being remediated.
- The deep aquifer has been contaminated with chlorinated solvents. The design of the system

establishes a hydraulic barrier between the contaminant plume and the nearest City water supply well, 3/4 mile to the east. The chlorinated solvent contaminated ground water within the deep aquifer is being remediated.

Record Of Decision (ROD)

Operable Unit 1

DATE SIGNED:	March 22, 1985.
REMEDY:	Replace city water supply wells, San Jose #3 & #6.
STATUS:	Burton #4 (replacement) well was completed in April 1987.

Operable Unit 2

DATE SIGNED:	September 30, 1988.
REMEDY:	Plug SJ #3 & #6 wells plus any private wells that might be a conduit from shallow to intermediate aquifers and ground water monitoring and access restrictions are required.
STATUS:	Work was completed in September 1994.

Operable Units 3 & 4

DATE SIGNED:	June 1988 (Van Waters & Rogers, i.e. Univar).
REMEDY:	Ground Water Remediation- OU#3 - Pump and treat ground water.
STATUS	Pump and treat system operational since 4/92. Source Identification/Source Control- OU#4 - No further action.

Operable Units 5 & 6

DATE SIGNED:	September 30, 1988 (Air Force Plant 83/General Electric.).
REMEDY:	#5 - Pump and treat shallow ground water; soil cleanup, if needed.
STATUS:	Pump and treat system operational since 5/94 for shallow ground water. No action on soil. If the shallow aquifer is de-watered, which now seems unlikely, soil borings will be taken to determine the residual contaminant levels in the soil. If the shallow zone is remediated without de-watering, the potential residual soil contamination will not represent a threat and will not be treated.
REMEDY:	#6 - Pump and treat deep ground water aquifer.
STATUS:	Remedial Design was completed in May 1995. Construction began on remediation system in July 1995. Construction completed on recovery system and treatment plant. Remedial operations began on April 25, 1996.

Contacts

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